

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed March 18, 2005, the Examiner: (1) rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Banks (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,376) in view of Dye (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,411); (2) rejected claims 7-15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Banks in view of Dye and Ong (U.S. Patent No. 5,986,622); (3) indicated that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten to include the subject matter of base claim 14 and intervening claim 15; and (4) allowed claims 21-34.

By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-15, amend allowable claim 16 to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 14 and intervening claim 15, and amend claims 17, 18 and 20 to depend from allowable claim 16. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 16-34 remain pending in this application.

***Claims 1-15***

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Banks in view of Dye; claims 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Banks in view of Dye and Ong.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterizations of the teachings of Banks, Dye and Ong. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-15 are now moot. Applicants reserve the right to file claims corresponding to canceled claims 1-15 in a continuing application.

***Claim 16***

The Examiner indicated that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, Applicants have rewritten claim 16 to include the subject matter of base claim 14 and intervening claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is in condition for allowance, and timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

***Claims 17-20***

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Banks in view of Dye and Ong. Claims 17, 18 and 20 previously depended from claim 14. By this amendment, Applicants have amended allowable claim 16 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14, and amended claims 17, 18 and 20 to depend from allowable claim 16. Claim 19 remains dependent upon claim 18. By these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-20 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 17-20 be allowed along with claim 16.

***Conclusions***

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-34 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In addition to the above remarks, Applicants note that the Office Action dated September 16, 2005, contains a number of statements characterizing the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is discussed herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any such statement or characterization.

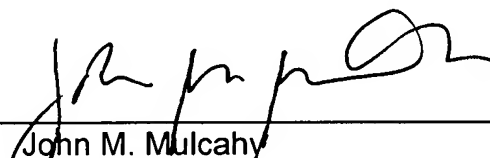
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 15, 2005

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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